

Andrene Bent-Campbell

200 Russ St

Hartford Ct, 06106

February 15, 2022:

H.B. No. 5037 (COMM) AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

RE: Department of Education's Legislative Agenda

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator John Fonfara, Senator Richard Blumenthal and Senator Christopher Murphy, and Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee, My name is **Andrene Bent-Campbell** and I am from **Hartford Connecticut**. I have four daughters currently enrolled in CREC schools. I have 3 daughters attending Civic Leadership High School located in Enfield Ct; grades 9,11 and 12. I have 1 daughter attending International Magnet School located in South Windsor Ct in the 5th grade. Both of these schools are CREC Magnet School. I am asking you to please support an increase in the RESC state magnet grant.

My children benefit greatly through the extraordinary opportunities they experience every day at Civic Leadership High and International Magnet School. These diverse and engaging learning environment benefits my children in everyday activities, whether in school or home. The way they interact with each other as siblings as well as other settings. They are constantly challenged in their learning. They are dedicated to whatever tasks they are given whether in school or home. They are learning how to function WELL in all situations as well as working with others with diverse backgrounds and with differences of opinions. Additionally, I NEED to add that these schools, Principals, Teachers and staff have stepped up and shaped my children for an amazing future. They have dedicated all they have to nurture, educate and challenge my children to want a better future. They help them to focus and provides them with tons of extra resources to help them continue to build on their education and be stronger students. I am a very dedicated mom and I take pride in my children. But my schools are 90% responsible for helping my children. These staff spend most of the day with my children. When I get home from work they have completed assignments and I get to hear about what they did at school. I take this time to learn where they are, what they are doing and I encourage them to continue putting in the work. I am a small percentage but I am eternally grateful for what my schools have given to my children. Please continue to provide funding for my schools so they can continue the GREAT work that they are putting in for my children and for all the other children that has been blessed from their dedication.

Our magnet schools are at risk. Without sustainable funding, CREC which operates 16 innovative schools, will be forced to either cut programming or to increase the tuition costs they charge to local school districts.

I am asking the legislature to follow through on its promise to invest in the future of *all* students. Magnet schools have a successful track record of providing their students a chance to thrive.

Currently

the Sheff Stipulated Agreement requires the expansion of schools and program, before you add any more schools, please adequately fund those that you have established and that are thriving. I urge you to continue funding the schools that are already operating and available and have

demonstrated success before you consider funding new school choice options. Thank you for allowing me to share my comments.

I am willing to speak on behalf of my children and my schools. I can be reached at 860.978.1585 or via email; andrenebent@yahoo.com

Thank you

Proud Mom